

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A catalyst for the hydrogenation of aromatic compounds to give the corresponding alicyclic compounds, which comprises at least one metal of the eighth transition group of the periodic table of the elements on or in a support material, wherein the support material has an average pore diameter of from 25 to 50 nm and a specific surface area greater than 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and  
wherein over 90% of the total pore volume of the support material is comprised of meso- and micropores with a diameter of from 0.1 to 50 nm.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support material comprises activated carbon, silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, silicon oxide, aluminosilicate, titanium dioxide, zirconium dioxide, magnesium oxide, zinc oxide, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises at least one metal of the first transition group of the periodic table of the elements.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises at least one metal of the seventh transition group of the periodic table of the elements.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A process for the catalytic hydrogenation of an aromatic compound with one or more hydrogen-containing gases on a catalyst which comprises at least one metal of the eighth transition group of the periodic table of the elements on or in a support material,

wherein the support material has an average pore diameter of from 25 to 50 nm and a specific surface area greater than 30 m<sup>2</sup>/g, and wherein over 90% of the total pore volume of the support materials is comprised of meso- and micropores with a diameter of from 0.1 to 50 nm,

the aromatic compounds comprise aromatic monocarboxylic acids or their alkyl esters or aromatic polycarboxylic acids or their anhydrides, half esters, or full esters, and

said aromatic compounds are reacted to give the corresponding alicyclic poly- and/or monocarboxylic acid compounds.

Claim 7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the support material comprises activated carbon, silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, silicon oxide, aluminosilicate, titanium dioxide, zirconium dioxide, magnesium oxide, zinc oxide, or mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 6, which further comprises at least one metal of the first transition group of the periodic table of the elements.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 6, which further comprises at least one metal of the seventh transition group of the periodic table of the elements.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the aromatic compound comprises benzene-, diphenyl-, naphthalene-, diphenyl oxide-, or anthracenecarboxylic acid, corresponding anhydrides, and/or corresponding esters.

Claim 12 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 11, wherein the alcohol components of the esters of the organic compounds are in each case identical or different and are alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, and/or alkyl groups having from 1 to 25 carbon atoms, branched or unbranched.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aromatic compound comprises benzene-, diphenyl-, naphthalene-, diphenyl oxide-, or anthracenecarboxylic acid, corresponding anhydrides, and/or corresponding esters.

Claim 14 (New): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support material has an average pore diameter of from 25 to 40 nm.

Claim 15 (New): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support material has a specific surface area of from 30-90 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 16 (New): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support material is comprised of meso- and micropores with a diameter of from 0.1 to 20 nm.

Claim 17 (New): The catalyst as claimed in claim 1, wherein the content of the metal of the eighth transition group of the periodic table of the elements on or in a support material is from 0.1 to 30% by weight.

Claim 18 (New): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the support material has an average pore diameter of from 25 to 40 nm.

Claim 19 (New): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the support material has a specific surface area of from 30-90 m<sup>2</sup>/g.

Claim 20 (New): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the support material is comprised of meso- and micropores with a diameter of from 0.1 to 20 nm.

Claim 21 (New): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the content of the metal of the eighth transition group of the periodic table of the elements on or in a support material is from 0.1 to 30% by weight.

Claim 22 (New): The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the process is carried out in the pressure range 3 to 300 bar and the hydrogenation temperature of from 50 to 250°C.